

Forum: Security Council

Issue: The United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH)

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Introduction

A Caribbean destination bordered by the islands of the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, Haiti is an island with landmarks dating back to the 19th century. Originally, the island was called Hispaniola and included Haiti and the Dominican Republic, however in 1697 once Spain surrendered to France they were split into their own respective islands. In 2016 the overall population of the country exceeded 10 million, however, only 53% of its population are able to read and write, and in the Western Hemisphere, the country is known to be the poorest country. Approximately 80% of the population lives in extreme poverty and over 7 million of its population lives without electricity. The island has an average life expectancy of 63 years, however, 10% of its children die before they reach 5 years of age due to the poverty. Less than 2% of the forests in the region are standing as the country faces political and environmental issues; in 2010, Haiti was hit with an earthquake of magnitude 7.0. The aftershocks continued to occur for the following days and there were over 50 aftershocks in total, all of 4.5 magnitude or higher. This earthquake resulted in over 300,000 dead or injured, and was also known to be the most destructive natural disaster in the history of the region according to the University of Fondwa.

Haiti has an average income per capita of \$250 annually and has had a long history of political instability and corruption. Public funds have been misused, resulting in a decline in the Haiti justice system, the police, public services and even basic infrastructure. Along with this, drug trafficking and gang violence is also common throughout the country. In addition, Haiti suffers greatly from corruption; in 2008, Haiti was rated as the fourth most corrupt country in the world, and the former president of Haiti, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, has had accusations of corruption and human rights abuse. During his period as a leader, Aristide had allegedly made deals with companies such as Fusion Telecommunications for political links. He also had 2 cases against him of money laundering and drug trafficking. After 2010, Haiti became dependent on foreign aid according to an article published by Peter Worthington in January of 2012. There is no evidence that necessarily points to this foreign aid being misused.

The United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) is a mandate set by the United Nations (UN) Security Council with aims to “strengthen Haiti’s rule of law institutions, including the justice and prisons; and to promote and protect human rights - all with a view to improving the everyday lives of the Haitian people.” It was established in 13th April 2017 as a peacekeeping mission and has over 1,250 members as part of the police force, correction officers and international civilians. There are also 2 Indian units that continue to serve for the MINUJUSTH of around 452 personelles. Originally, the mission was to be mandated until the April of 2018, however a resolution was passed in the Security Council to extend it for another year.

Definition of Key Terms

Criminals

One who has committed or been directly involved in a crime of any sort.

Gang Warfare

Violent conflict between organised groups of criminals.

Natural Disaster

An event that is naturally occurring due to the tectonic plates or other geological processes that has major negative implications on the land and lives of those involved.

MINUJUSTH

A peacekeeping mission set by the United Nations’ Security Council in order to provide justice support and aid with the National Haiti Police in Haiti.

Peacekeepers

Also known as blue hats, these are UN troops who are sent to countries with the mission to maintain or preserve peace.

Political Instability

The term political instability refers to a government’s potential to collapse, due to issues such as corruption.

Poverty

Poverty is not having enough money to be able to afford basic needs; food, water, shelter, and clothing.

Sexual Assault

A form of harassment: when an individual is forced to provide non-consensual sexual services, often as severe as rape.

Background Information

As there have been corruption and political instability in Haiti throughout history, the United Nations had also set a peacekeeping mission from 2004 as their first step towards stabilizing Haiti. After the natural disasters, which exacerbated the issues, MINUJUSTH was formed.

United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

From 2004 up till 2017, there was another peacekeeping mission in Haiti; MINUSTAH. It was to concentrate on civilian police, security, and protection. Soldiers for MINUSTAH came from all around the world including Brazil, Chile and India. It is known as the first UN mission that was lead by Brazilian and Chilean military. MINUSTAH also underwent operations to crackdown on criminals, and even though their missions were generally successful, innocent lives were taken away as a by-product. In January of 2005, MINUSTAH raided an area in Cité Soleil targeting a group of armed rebels led by Dread Wilme, a supporter of Haiti's former president Aristide. Eyewitnesses claim that no UN forces were killed in the raid, but that civilians were killed or injured, and that Dread Wilme was also killed in the raid.

From 2007, MINUSTAH struggled in dealing with gang violence. With the National Haitian Police, the peacekeepers would try and rescue victims who get kidnapped by gangs and patrol the areas. In 2009, a report stated that '225,000 Haitian children are forced to work as domestic servants.' According to Michel Forst, in 2011, the police efforts were "being hampered by unacceptable political, operational and financial obstacles that are jeopardizing the changes for success in a process that is fundamental for re-establishing the rule of law in Haiti." In 2012, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported a murder rate of 10.2 per 100,000 people. This has been a decrease in the murder rate of 219 per 100,000 people in 2004, after the murder to President Aristide. The UN armed forces have used fire numerous times against criminals and gang members in Port-au-Prince. There have also been gun battles involved between criminals and UN troops in February of 2007, when 700 troops flooded the city of Cité Soleil. Port-au-Prince has been a prime location for most of the gang violence and sexual assault, in 2012 it was said that the crime rate in Port-au-Prince was 20 times higher than elsewhere in Haiti.

The MINUSTAH has taken a lot of criticism over the 13 years they have been in action. The UN troops are essentially another police force in Haiti and their assembly has been proven to be difficult.

Political criticism

There have been claims by the former government of Haiti that MINUSTAH has been an attempt to secure the government of Gérard Latortue; a former prime minister of Haiti and a former UN official by the United States and Canada. A party from Aristide had claimed that the MINUSTAH UN forces had the aim to neutralize the supporters of the Aristide's party, violating UN's political impartiality.

Cases of Sexual Assault

In addition to the killing of civilians, MINUSTAH troops have also been accused of or involved in a number of sexual assault cases, many involving adolescents; these cases sprung from 2007 till 2015. A 19-year-old male was allegedly raped by the UN marines, which was recorded by the peacekeepers themselves and the video went viral, resulting in the relocation of the 19-year-old and his family. 108 members of the UN peacekeepers, in which 3 were officials, were sent back due to sexual abuse and misconduct. The rape scandal victims ranged from 12 to 20-year-olds, males and females, with some who were even mentally challenged.

Human Right Violations

There have also been many human rights cases against the MINUSTAH. For example, in 2010 a 16-year-old was found dead inside of the MINUSTAH Police Unit base. The UN denied all knowledge and claims of the murder and claimed it was a suicide. The case remains unsolved. A virus, cholera, that was linked to the Nepalese peacekeepers is said to have killed over 7,000 people of Haiti. Alongside this there has been a mismanagement of their human waste which is said to have added to this virus by contaminated the soil and the water.

In 2017, the Security Council passed a resolution to replace the mission of MINUSTAH with the MINUJUSTH operation.

MINUJUSTH

After the criticism received on MINUSTAH, MINUJUSTH aims to focus primarily on the police and Haiti's justice system. The mission is to last for two years in which they also aim to work on the HNP, Haitian National Police. To mentor and assist the police 'in the areas of reform and restructuring' to be able to protect civilians from the protests and riots in the country. MINUJUSTH has been able to aid the HNP to refrain from taking actions that could worsen the situation, and these efforts have been visible.

MINUJUSTH also aims to set up 58 projects under the categories of; security and stability, political and rule of law, and human rights. Security and stability is for providing employment and income-generation methods for those youth who are at risk. Political and rule of law aims to support legal aid centers and developing a strong foundation for their justice system. The mission also aims to work on and improve human rights in Haiti by improving on their national human rights institution and ‘to support monitoring, promotion and protection of human rights in critical areas.’

Based on the current works on the MINUJUSTH troops, Haiti has received positive feedback as the police force is progressing in the right direction. However there are still numerous cases of sexual assault to be investigated, and the streets are yet to be free of raids, protests and gang violence. Because MINUJUSTH is a fairly new mission, it is not yet clear whether they will achieve success.

Natural Disasters

2010 Earthquake

The 2010 earthquake is known to be the deadliest natural disaster that has hit Haiti. In the areas affected, nearly 300,000 people were killed. 30,000 commercial buildings were destroyed, including the MINUSTAH headquarters and hospitals. The National Palace and Port-au-Prince Cathedral were also destroyed. By the earthquake, three major universities were severely damaged and there was a big setback to the educational system in Haiti. Many of the people living in Port-au-Prince were then living on the streets, children were displaced from their families and homes were destroyed. There were international aid efforts that were made but due to the destruction of infrastructure and buildings, receiving this aid became extremely difficult. The damage from this earthquake is still visible in the country today. The earthquake led to the MINUSTAH headquarters collapsing and other UN facilities being heavily damaged. The Mission Chief was reported dead the next day however the UN troops continued a rescue mission to recover bodies up to five days after the earthquake hit.

Hurricane Matthew 2016

On October 3rd till October 4th 2016, Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti. This was a category 4 hurricane and was another factor that affected the infrastructure and agricultural industry. The hurricane resulted in the killing of over 600 people and the estimated damages were \$1.9 billion. Like the earthquake, the results of the hurricane are still visible today. The conditions of the country have gone downhill with increased poverty, poor soil conditions and lack of education. As a result, the World Food Program (WFP) and UN's Children's Fund were providing aid to the people of Haiti. The WFP regional director claimed “Our priority is to support the government's interventions to save lives and meet the food needs of the most vulnerable and food insecure people affected.”

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

United States of America

Due to Haiti's geographical location and its ability to impact the stability of the Latin American countries, Haiti is of great strategic significance for USA. Haiti is the 76th largest trade partner with the US however there is a surplus of US goods with Haiti which was of \$491 million in 2017. For Haiti, US is their number 1 trade partner and therefore Haiti heavily relies on US despite their history of invasion. For US, Haiti has become 'the top foreign assistance policy.' There are also two US military bases located in Haiti; one on the border to Haiti and Dominican Republic. If Haiti were to be more stable and secure, the US would be able to greatly benefit. There is a Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act in which both countries can economically benefit as they consist of a duty-free preference of products. This is a major reason as to why the MINUJUSTH has been established.

The US has conducted several interventions in Haiti, however some argue that these have only made situations in Haiti worse. Their aim is to "foster and strengthen democracy; help alleviate poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition; promote respect for human rights; and counter illegal migration and drug trafficking." It is stated that in between 2005 and 2006, 67% of Haitians were to emigrate to the States, with 60% of those American-born. In 2010, the United States signed the Haiti Economic Lift Program (HELP) into their law which was to extend upon the "Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act." It was to provide support services and other such aids to the people of Haiti. They evaluated the current situations in Haiti, looking into the hurricane, the earthquake, corruption and physical damages to their infrastructure.

Since 1973, US has also been the largest donor to aid in their development of natural and human resources. Between 1995 and 2003 USA has donated over \$850 million and since 2004 they have contributed with another \$600 million. These have been used to support Haiti with a variety of problems ranging from infrastructure damage to economic development. In January of 2017, the United States announced that they would donate \$20 million to allow for job creation in Cité Soleil. As Donald Trump came into power, 18% of Haiti's funds were slashed and has diverged his attention from immigration to US and denied Haitians an extension in US.

Canada

Canada has specific goals for Haiti which fall under three categories; gender equality and women's empowerment, human dignity, and environment and climate action. The key targets within each include: to strengthen women organisations and services for women, to improve water and sanitation

services in communities affected by cholera, to strengthen national resilience, and enhance management and response to natural disasters.

Canada also provides monetary assistance to Haiti. Since the 2010 earthquake, Canada has donated over CAD 1.47 billion to the country for their renovations and to combat political instability. There is also the Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy, in which Haiti is a priority. They have a consistent engagement also through the MINUJUSTH and MINUSTAH, the UN missions for Haiti.

Cuba and Venezuela

After the 2010 earthquake, Cuba was one of the first responders and aided Haiti by sending hundreds of doctors. Additionally, they work in collaboration with Venezuela in joint aid projects; in March of 2007, Venezuela and Cuba donated \$1 billion to fund energy, health and infrastructure in Haiti. There are aims of an oil refinery to be constructed which would provide 10,000 barrels of oil in Haiti daily. To support Haiti further, Venezuela is increasing the amount of petroleum provided to Haiti. Haiti is a permanent observer of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA) which boosts the relations between the three countries.

World Health Organisation

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has been aiding Haiti after each of its natural disasters. They have sent aid in terms of supplies and doctors to Haiti after the earthquake and hurricane however due to the destruction of infrastructure, receiving this aid had become a challenge. After the cholera incident, WHO publishes a report in which they discussed the quality of primary healthcare in Haiti. The report discussed why primary health care should be a priority in Haiti. In 2008, Haiti's healthcare system was classified as selective, meaning they were only able to aid a specific amount or group of people. WHO aimed to change that. They regularly measure the primary health care quality to make sure standards are being reached while also having a census in which they observe sick children or families. Along with this, they have been constantly providing aid to those who were victims of gang warfare or criminal activity in Haiti.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
June 1 2004	UN Security Council establishes MINUSTAH
2005-2006	67% of Haitians emigrate to USA
February 2007	Gun battles between UN troops and criminals where 700 troops flooded the city of Cité Soleil

2007	The beginning of assault cases against UN troops in Haiti
January 2010	7.0 magnitude earthquake hits
24th May 2010	US signs the Haiti Economic Lift Program (HELP) into their law
October 3rd - 4th 2016	Hurricane Matthew hits Haiti
April 13 2017	UN Security Council announces replacement of MINUSTAH by MINUJUSTH
April 23 2017	UN Security Council establishes MINUJUSTH
October 16 2017	MINUJUSTH establishes its mandate

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- The question concerning Haiti (MINUJUSTH), 10 April 2018, **(S/RES/2401)**
- The situation in Haiti, 30 April 2004, **(S/RES/1542)**
- Report on MINUJUSTH, 6 September 2018, **(S/2018/795)**
- The new cholera approach, 13 January 2017, **(A/RES/71/161)**
- The question concerning Haiti, 13 October 2016, **(S/RES/2313 (2016))**

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The biggest attempt to solve the issue in Haiti was the MINUSTAH mission from 2004 to 2017. However due to many reasons, that mission had to be replaced. Before MINUSTAH there were also previous mentions including the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH). UNMIH was another peacekeeping organization which went from 1993 to 1996. Compared to MINUSTAH and MINUJUSTH, UNMIH was a frankly smaller mission with the aims to ‘aid for the new government, development of their society, strengthening institutions and a large and essential part, the reformation and development of the Haitian National Police Force (HNP).’ The UNMIH mission was relatively successful. The UNMIH aided in the formation and training of the police force in Haiti along with creating an atmosphere that was fair for elections. UNMIH also provided technical support to authoritative figures and aided in the restoration of infrastructure in the country. A multinational force was even implemented to aid UNMIH, expanding the mission, however on 30 January 1995, the Security Council established the stability in the environment and asked the multinational force to retire from the mission. There is no information to why the United Nations Mission in Haiti was removed from its place.

Possible Solutions

Background checks for UN troops and providing psychologists

As in MINUSTAH there have been troops who have had cases of rape violations against them, for MINUJUSTH, the troops going to serve and aid for the country should receive a background check in order to guarantee no such violations would occur again. For example, nations such as Canada are already working towards empowering women and setting up aid for rape victims and their families. In addition, there should be an available outlet, a professional psychologist or therapist, for victims to speak to so that they may have access to proper mental healthcare. These psychologists should not be limited to rape victims but should be open for all, as many other problems in Haiti could have negative effects on one's mental health.

Education

Although this goes hand in hand with raising awareness, this solution should be differentiated as the implication on society are different as to simply raising awareness. Raising awareness allows individuals to be more cautious, however through education we can do two things. One is to teach people ethical and unethical actions, targeting those who may follow the wrong path in the future, and where the limits should be. The second and most important would be through education; with a better education there would be more opportunities for solutions to overcome these gang violences and drug trafficking. Despite the fact that targeting schools only affects a small group of people, government campaigns or campaigns run by non-governmental organisations can also help shed light to other people regarding this issue as a whole. In addition to this, the education system, although it in itself does not receive much funding, is not ideal for any member of the community. This is due to the natural disasters destroying the infrastructure, limiting them of a location and also from the corruption and political instability, Haiti has not been able to recruit many teachers that are able and willing to provide education. For this reason, the educational system in Haiti needs to improve drastically. With education, there is also a possibility to have innovations that potentially lead to better or stronger infrastructure to further aid in the redevelopment of the country.

While there are college level educations in Haiti, they receive little to no funding. Another aim should be to develop the schooling systems that are already in place and to provide them with quality education.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

In addition to educating and raising awareness, another possible solution to resolve this issue is to work alongside the sustainable development goals. SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) links directly to employment, and SDG 4 (Quality Education) also helps achieve higher employment

rates. SDG 9 (Industrial Innovation and Infrastructure) is about industries and infrastructure, which ties in with the issue towards Haiti as from the natural disasters these need to be improved upon drastically. By reaching these goals through their respective means, there is a clear way to reach a safer community.

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